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UP-COMING EVENTS

September 17
International Coastal Cleanup
www.coastalcleanup.org

September 24
National Public Lands Day
www.npld.com

September 30
Take Pride in America
National Awards Ceremony

October 22
Make a Difference Day
<http://www.makeadifference-day.com/>

November 19
National Family Volunteer Day
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd/

A Note from our Executive Director

Once again the busy summer volunteer season is winding to an end, and what a summer it has been. From Anchorage, AK to Tampa, FL and all points in between, Take Pride volunteers helped construct trails, clean up beaches and parks, remove invasive plant species, and replant and restore native ecosystems, illustrating their dedication to and love for our public lands.

While I would like to say take the rest of the summer off and enjoy yourself, truth be told you are already enjoying yourself and so are we. This month gives us our chance to say thank you, as we announce the winners of the 2005 Take Pride in America National Awards. The winners have been chosen and we are currently contacting the winning groups and individuals, so stay tuned. We can't wait to spread the word on these exemplary volunteers.

Good Luck! We look forward to seeing some of you at our National Awards Ceremony at the end of September.

Sincerely,



Marti Allbright



Volunteers Take Pride in Natchez, MS.

Clint Eastwood PSAs Available

Take Pride is pleased to announce that our new public service announcements starring Clint Eastwood are complete. We would be more than happy to send a copy of the final version to anyone who is interested.

E-mail requests to TakePride@ios.doi.gov with "Public Service Announcements" in the subject line. Thanks again to all our Partners who helped make this a success.

COMING SOON...

2005 Take Pride in America
National Award Winners

We will be announcing our National Award winners in more than ten categories in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned and check our website for up-to-date information.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

PricewaterhouseCoopers Volunteers Clean up Anacostia Park

Lending their “skills and expertise” to the outdoors, 415 volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a Take Pride in America Charter Partner, turned out on July 13 to help beautify and clean the grounds of Anacostia Park, in Washington, DC.

“As the largest accounting firm in the region, our people at PricewaterhouseCoopers feel a strong civic responsibility to lead by example and give back to the community,” says Fernando Murias, PwC Managing Partner - Washington Metro. “We strive to make an impact on the organizations we touch – not just by donating money, but by making an impact with time and energy. Teaming with each other and the surrounding community is just part of our PwC culture.”

Working with National Park Service staff, Earth Conservation Corp, and

Zodiac of North America, who provided the boats, PwC volunteers divided and conquered six areas throughout the park.

Participating in the day's activities were Take Pride in America Executive Director Marti Allbright, Take Pride Partners Council Chair Derrick Crandall and Director of the National Park Service Fran Mainella.



PwC employees work with the National Park Service to remove debris along the river.

Anacostia Projects:

- Heritage and Kingman Islands (200 Volunteers) - Volunteers removed trash and painted over graffiti at entrances near RFK Stadium; repaired the ramp, mulched, and cleared the site lines along the Heritage Trail; and installed demonstration trash traps along the Anacostia River.

- Langston Golf Course, Anacostia River and River Bank Cleanup (150 Volunteers) – Volunteers removed trash both along the river as well as on the river and weeded and mulched around the golf course.

- Anacostia Park Table & Bench Repair (65 Volunteers) – Volunteers repaired and painted broken park tables and benches.

Take Pride in America Supports National Public Lands Day

It's never too early to start planning for National Public Lands Day (NPLD) held on Saturday, September 24. This year, Take Pride in America is encouraging everyone to find a way to get involved. Plan, participate in or sponsor an event in your area.

There are more than 300 volunteer opportunities already posted.

Add yours so we can show our support for our public lands and waters. This year, all NPLD events will be considered Take Pride in America events and the sites will have available our partner-sponsored Take Pride Volunteer Guides. This is a great day to volunteer!



You can work with Federal land managers or local and city public land managers to encourage wide spread participation in this, the largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In the past, activities included building trails and bridges, renewing buildings, improving wildlife habitats, planting stream banks and restoring shorelines.

On NPLD in 2004, nearly 90,000 volunteers and community partners contributed an estimated \$11 million of improvements to 600 public land sites – Federal, state, city and county lands – in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

National Public Lands Day Event Planning Tips

- Contact a Federal, State, or local land manager to learn what you can do to organize an NPLD event in your area

- Register your event with NEETF by completing the registration form found on www.publiclandsday.org

- Since this year, all events are Take Pride events, then register on our site at www.TakePride.gov

- Contact local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, conservation or environmental groups to see how they can help plan and participate in your event

- Promote your event in the community and in schools

- Get ready for the day, outlining tasks and identifying crew leaders

Scouts at National Scout Jamboree Learn About Conservation, Volunteering

From July 25 through August 3, residents at Caroline County, VA woke to reveille in the morning and fell asleep to taps at night. The troops had arrived – Scout troops, that is.

This year, Take Pride in America joined the National Scout Jamboree to help spread the message of volunteerism. The National Jamboree is Scouting's grandest tradition as Scouts and leaders gather from across the nation to build their scouting skills and, this year, learn about conservation.

The Conservation/Environment Area program, one of five Outback Centers in the Jamboree, provided an interactive trail to educate Scouts and leaders on their stewardship over public lands and their opportunities to volunteer through Take Pride in America.

Hikers on the ¾ mile handicap accessible trail were first briefed on the trail activities and then given Take Pride in America Passports. Continuing on the trail, Scouts, leaders and other visitors encountered twenty-five stations offering a variety of educational activities. By completing 10 of the activities, Scouts were eligible to receive their Conservation/Environment Patch and use their Take Pride Passports to participate in a prize drawing.



Top: Scouts learn at booths along trail.

Bottom: Take Pride banner displayed on the trail.

Take Pride in America and its Charter Partners were major contributors to the conservation trail activities and to later prize drawings. The collaborative trail involved over twenty Federal and state agencies and conservation-oriented non-profit organizations.

Bass Lake Shoreline Cleanup

There couldn't be a better way to celebrate America's independence. At Bass Lake in California Take Pride in America joined forces with the Bass Lake Homeowners Association for the Second Annual Bass Lake July 4th Shoreline Cleanup.



Volunteers at the Bass Lake Take Pride in America event.

Over 25 volunteers congregated at Recreation Point on July 6th for the event. They moved by boats across the lake to clean up the waters and shoreline. Bags quickly filled with garbage, broken chairs, broken barbeques and other items.

The volunteers were rewarded with free T-shirts, Take Pride in America water bottles and bumper stickers, and a BBQ'd hot dog lunch. Along with Take Pride in America, Bass Lake Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Star, Radio Stations KAAT/KTNS, California Land Management and EMADCO helped sponsor the event.

Training Center Promotes Hands-on Experience

Education is a hands-on thing. At least it was for the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 7th.

In Shepherdstown, WV, the groups came together for a Take Pride in America event to restore part of the National Conservation Training Center's hardwood forest. As part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the training center seeks to train and educate natural resource managers to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

But the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center proved they weren't just talk. During the restoration event, volunteers planted over 600 mixed hardwood tree seedlings in a three acre floodplain field. The training center has approximately 500 acres of land managed as wildlife habitat. As these new trees grow they will add a scenic hardwood forest habitat overlooking a stretch of the Potomac River just north of Shepherdstown.



Planting trees to enhance wildlife.

Susitna Community Earth Day

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, members of the Upper Susitna Valley Community in association with the National Park Service, hosted a Earth Day Education Fair on April 23.

Made possible by the National Park Service's Take Pride in America Park Steward Event Program Grant, a total of 29 volunteers contributed approximately 214 hours to Susitna's Earth Day activities.

Held at the Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, the program offered several classes including the National Park Service Fire Management's FireWise workshop about fireproofing homes and the Bird Treatment and Learning Center's special presentation on birds of prey – live animals included!

Other events included crafts for kids, live entertainment and water safety tips.



Kids work on crafts at Susitna's Earth Day.

Muddy Waters for Florida Volunteers

On July 10 a little rain and flooded lands couldn't stop volunteers as they literally waded through their work at the Corbett Wildlife Management Area in West Palm Beach, FL.

Eleven volunteers gathered for this Take Pride in America volunteer event organized by the Loxahatchee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association. But recent rains meant that volunteers had to wade most of the day as they clipped back shrubbery and performed an inventory of the summer wildflowers.

At least the weather cooperated during the event. Volunteers enjoyed the beautiful summer day despite the wet ground as they recorded over 50 varieties of blooming wildflowers and cleared several miles of the Florida Trail.

The same volunteer effort will continue for one week-end a month all summer

long to complete the total trail in this wildlife management area.

The Florida Trail is managed by the Florida Trail Association, a non-profit volunteer organization responsible for building, maintaining, promoting and protecting hiking trails across the state of Florida.



Volunteers trudge through flooded land to take inventory on plants and clip back shrubbery.

Take Pride City Siloam Springs

Mayor M.L. VanPoucke declared Siloam Springs, AR a Take Pride in America City during the city's 125th anniversary celebration on June 18.

The celebration took place during the Siloam Springs Annual Picnic & Rodeo in

historic downtown Siloam Springs.

The city's Take Pride City Plaque was displayed and Take Pride Volunteer Guides were available for citizens to learn more about volunteering with Take Pride in America.

For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides at your next event simply email us the quantity and we will send them out to you. To view a copy of the Guide on-line visit http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf

Please continue to send us your photos and write-ups of your Take Pride in America events! An event evaluation form can be found on the homepage of our website at www.TakePride.gov.

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,
Take Pride Staff